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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/644,826	08/21/2003	Min-Hui Chen	CHEN 3579/EM	CHEN 3579/EM 6175	
23364	7590 03/24/2004		EXAMINER		
	ΓHOMAS, PLLC	GALL, LLOYD A			
625 SLATER FOURTH FL		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
ALEXANDR	ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004	DATE MAILED: 03/24/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) OHFN, MINHUI Art Unit OHFN, MINHUI Art Unit OHFN, MINHUI Art Unit OHFN, MINHUI Art Unit OHFN, MINHUI OHFN	J. Å			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152. Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 12] ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) ☐ All b ☐ Some * c ☐ None of: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 5. ☐ Paper No(s)/Mail Dale 5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) Paper No(s)/Mail Dale 5. ☐ Other	Status			
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'Application/Control Number: 10/644,826

Art Unit: 3676

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1, 4 and 9-11 are objected to because of the following informalities: On page 8, line 4, "either top or" should be replaced with –the top and--, since both of the top and bottom connecting members are referred to in lines 5-8. On page 9,line 2, "flanges" should be replaced with –flange--. In line 1 of claims 9 and 10, "the" may be replaced with –at least one--, since plural sleeves are claimed in claim 1. See also, "the" at the end of line 2 of claim 11. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Murphy (985) and the Austrian reference (804). In fig. 1 of the instant application, applicant teaches a casing 30, a cover 32 with holes 320, a base 34, connecting members 36 capable of being connected by soldering, an opening 340 for a keyhole access, and a hinged extension member 342 an enlargement 344 to seal the opening 340. Murphy teaches an extension member 46 with a recessed enlargement 54 to cooperate with an annular downwardly extending flange 26 around a keyhole. The Austrian reference teaches sleeves 8 with outwardly extending top and bottom flanges above and below to top cover. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a recessed enlargement and annular flange between the extension member 342 and keyhole 10 of

'Application/Control Number: 10/644,826

Art Unit: 3676

applicant's admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Murphy, the motivation being to optimize the sealing capability of the padlock protective member around the keyhole. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide sleeves in the cover holes 320 of applicant's admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of the Austrian reference, the motivation being to optimize the sealing capability around the shackle receiving holes 320.

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

applicant's admitted prior art in view of Murphy and Hampton (813).

Applicant's admitted prior art and Murphy are discussed above. Hampton teaches sleeves 32 disposed in holes 46 in the cover 26M as seen in the figure 4 embodiment, wherein the inner diameter of the sleeves are smaller than the outer diameter of the link 14, at least in the figure 4 condition. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute a recessed enlargement and annular flange between the extension member 342 and keyhole 10 of applicant's admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Murphy, the motivation being to optimize the sealing capability of the padlock protective member around the keyhole. It would

to provide sleeves in the cover holes 320 of applicant's admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Hampton (813), the motivation being to optimize the sealing capability around the shackle receiving holes 320.

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made

'Application/Control Number: 10/644,826

Art Unit: 3676

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Murphy and either the Austrian reference or Hampton (813) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Druschel (902). Druschel teaches an extension member 37 including an aperture 39 being snap-connected at tab 17 to a padlock protector 14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a tab and aperture snap connection between the extension member and base of applicant's admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Druschel, the motivation being to allow the extension member to be removable and used with multiple padlock protectors, if desired.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Murphy and either the Austrian reference or Hampton (813) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Winner (115). Winner teaches a sealing sleeve 51 as seen in fig. 3 having plural tapered projections around its bore. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide tapered projections with the bore of the sleeves of applicant's admitted prior art as modified by either the Austrian reference or Hampton (813), the motivation being to optimize the sealing capability of the sleeves.

Claims 5-7 and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Application/Control Number: 10/644,826

Art Unit: 3676

Page 5

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 703-308-0828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LG **LG** March 17, 2004

Lluyd Q. Hall Lloyd A. C.d.; Primary Exerciner